

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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**CX 4/30.2**

**CL 2002/44-FAC  
October 2002**

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
International Organisations

**FROM:** Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,  
00100 Rome, Italy

**SUBJECT:** Request for Comments on the Proposed Draft and Draft Revisions to Table 1 of the Codex General  
Standard for Food Additives

**DEADLINE:** 1 December 2002

<b>COMMENTS:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Copies to:</b>
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## COMMENTS

- Comments are requested on the following specific issues based on the background explanation below:
  - The revised Table 1 of the Draft Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) (Appendix I)

## BACKGROUND

2. The 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants CCFAC) agreed that a revised Table 1 of the draft GSFA containing all food additive provisions, including final provisions as well as those that are in the step process, should be circulated for the information of the Committee well in advance of the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC. In addition, the 34<sup>th</sup> CCFAC agreed to the additives to be given priority for discussion at its 35<sup>th</sup> session and agreed that the source data and the recommendations of the Quality Control Working Group for these additives should be circulated well in advance of the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 03/12, paras. 38-39.

### **Revised Table 1 of the Draft GSFA (Appendix I)<sup>2</sup>**

3. Table 1 of the draft GSFA was revised in accordance with comments submitted (CX/FAC 02/7, and CRDs 5 and 6) and recommendations by the 34<sup>th</sup> CCFAC. For a description of the procedures used to construct Table 1 from the source data, please consult CX/FAC 97/7. Please note the following with respect to the Revised Draft Table 1:

(i) The format of the Draft Table 1 is the same as in CL 2000/33-FAC (33<sup>rd</sup> CCFAC, 2000). The "Step" column indicates the status of specific provisions in the draft GSFA. For convenience, only Step 3, Step 6, Step 5/8, Step 8, or the year in which the Commission adopted the provision (e.g., 1999 or 2000) is indicated. Intermediate Steps (i.e., 4, 5, and 7) are not indicated. Number "3" in the Step Column reflects a new proposed use of an additive. Number "6" in the Step Column indicates that the provision has been adopted at Step 5 by the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC). Number "5/8" or "8" indicates that these provisions have been endorsed by the CCFAC and forwarded to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8.

(ii) In cases where a new proposed use level of an additive is higher than a level previously adopted at Step 5 or 8, there are two entries for a specific food category. Thus, in some instances there may be more than one provision for the use of an additive in a specific food category (e.g., Ascorbyl esters has two entries listed for use in food category 12.6.2, one adopted at Step 8 (2001) (200 mg/kg) and one at Step 6 (500 mg/kg)).

(iii) If the proposed additive use level for a new entry (Step 3) is less than or equal to the use level for an entry already in the draft GSFA, the Step 3 entry is not shown, because it is subsumed under the level for the adopted entry.

(iv) The additive provisions in Table 1 for the Table 3 additives that have been assigned a "group" ADI by JECFA are not grouped (e.g., "alginates") because different additives in the group may have different provisions for use. Therefore, these additives are listed individually in the revised draft Table 1.

(v) The functional effects listed for each additive in the draft Table 1 of the GSFA are derived primarily from the functional class titles for food additives in the International Numbering System (INS).<sup>3</sup> Where JECFA has specified additional functional class titles (e.g., carrier solvent, release agent, sequestrant), these additional functional classes have been included in the Draft GSFA. In some cases, Codex Member States reported an intended technical effect that is not listed for an additive in the INS or by JECFA. In such cases, the technical effect is listed in the Draft GSFA. Thus, the list of functional effects for each additive in the Draft GSFA may contain a mixture of INS functional effects, JECFA functional effects, and Codex Member State-provided functional effects.

### **Priority List of Additives for Discussion by the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC (Appendix II)<sup>4</sup>**

4. The priority ranking of additives for discussion by the CCFAC is contained in Appendix II of The CCFAC has discussed provisions for most of the Additives in Groups I-III. Delegations to the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC should note that the Committee's *ad hoc* GSFA working group intends to discuss provisions in the revised Table 1 for all of the Group IV and Group V additives.

<sup>2</sup> See ALINORM 03/12 para. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Codex Alimentarius Section 5.2 of Volume 1A, FAO/WHO 1995.

<sup>4</sup> See ALINORM 03/12 para. 38.

**Source Data and Recommendations of the CCFAC/GSFA Quality Control Group (Appendix III)**

5. The CCFAC's informal Quality Control Working Group examined the source data submitted by governments and international organizations in support of the draft GSFA.<sup>5</sup> Appendix III contains a summary of proposed use levels for the priority additives identified by the 34<sup>th</sup> CCFAC for discussion during the 35<sup>th</sup> CCFAC (i.e., additives in Groups IV and V). The Quality Control Working Group's recommended changes and additions are indicated by **bold** font and recommended deletions are indicated by ~~striketrough~~ font. Adopted provisions or provisions forwarded to the 25<sup>th</sup> Codex Alimentarius Commission at Step 8 are included only if there is a draft provision at Step 6 or Step 3 in the same food category.

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<sup>5</sup> CRD 1 Appendix I, 32<sup>nd</sup> CCFAC, 2000.